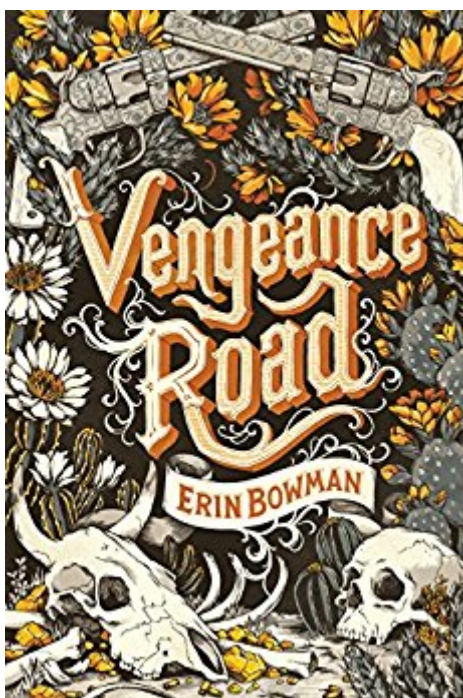


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# Vengeance Road



## Synopsis

When Kate Thompson's father is killed by the notorious Rose Riders for a mysterious journal that reveals the secret location of a gold mine, the eighteen-year-old disguises herself as a boy and takes to the gritty plains looking for answers and justice. What she finds are devious strangers, dust storms, and a pair of brothers who refuse to quit riding in her shadow. But as Kate gets closer to the secrets about her family, she gets closer to the truth about herself and must decide if there's room for love in a heart so full of hate. In the spirit of True Grit, the cutthroat days of the Wild West come to life for a new generation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade: B An e-galley was provided by HMH Books for Young Readers via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: 2015 is the year of Westerns, between Under a Painted Sky and Rae Carson's upcoming Walk on Earth a Stranger and now Erin Bowman's Vengeance Road.* This one could easily be a movie of the Western genre, with its shoot-outs, twists,

and dialogue. The entire book is narrated in a rough dialect that I struggled with (as a grammar nerd) and didn't enjoy. I was able to ignore it after awhile, much like I could with Scarlet's dialect in A.C. Gaughen's retelling of Robin Hood. Kate Thompson is spunky and unapologetic and authentic. Nothing about her felt forced. Will and Jesse were great, too. Lil, the Apache girl, felt a bit stereotypical at times but she gained some depth after a big incident (that I will not spoil, so don't ask). I'm not quite sure what I was expecting to happen in this book, but Vengeance Road definitely took me by surprise. I hate "journey" books (most end up being pretty boring), but this one wasn't about the journey or focused only on the trip. Enough happened at various intervals to keep me entertained and enjoying the plot. There is a plot twist about 85% in that I didn't like. It worked in some ways, but I felt pretty meh about it. The romance was pretty much expected, but it was still pretty swoony. A lot of it was what I wanted from the romance in *Under a Painted Sky* (meaning it develops a little sooner and there are plenty of swoonworthy kisses). There's some foul language and a lot of violence. *The Verdict*: So great! I wasn't expecting to love such a straight Western, but I did! So if you enjoy historical fiction, this is definitely one you should try.

Can I just say that I love westerns? *Vengeance Road* was a fast paced, action packed story about a girl who discovers that not only has her house burned down but her father's body is hanging from a mesquite tree in her front yard. Never a dull moment that's for sure. Kate is fierce and will stop at nothing to avenge her father's death. All her life her father drilled into her head that if something happens to him she is to find his old friend Abe. This is where Jesse and Will come in (both of whom I loved by the way). All she cares about is getting her revenge and being left alone. Much to her dismay, they decide to tag along. Secrets are revealed and somewhere along the way Kate begins to question her need for vengeance. Yes, she wants to take out the Rose Riders but she doesn't want to be like them either. It was nice witnessing her change over the course of the story. This book has everything I could want in a good western. Cowboys, shoot outs, saloons, and plenty of bloodshed (which is to be expected considering the title). There was some romance thrown in there as well but it was quite a slow build which I definitely appreciated. I'm all for a good romance but in a book like this I was worried it would distract from the story. Thankfully, that wasn't the case. Overall, this is definitely worth reading. It also helps that the cover is gorgeous!

This was a super fun action-packed western story. I'm really glad I picked this up. I've never been a huge fan of Westerns but something about this story intrigued me and I wasn't disappointed. There were strong characters with good character development, there was a good plot with some twists I

didn't see coming, and there was a lot of adventure. I found it really awesome that the author used real legends and even some real people (not the main characters) to enhance the story. Retribution rails comes out soon and I can't wait to see what happens next! I am pretty sure the next one is a companion novel in which some of the characters from this book are seen in the new one. Doesn't lessen my excitement though!

Book Title: Vengeance Road Author: Erin Bowman Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Review Format: ARC Release Date: 9/1/15 When the cover art for Vengeance Road was first released, I immediately loved it and thought it was very different and unique. It really does make you want to read this book. (And the summary automatically pulls you in.) After reading Vengeance Road, I do think that the cover perfectly reflects the book in every way. It's just so, so lovely. I love Vengeance Road's historical setting. The fact that this is a YA Western is what sold this book to me before reading it. Vengeance Road takes place in the Arizona Territory in 1877 during the Gold Rush. That's such an uncommon setting for a young adult book, that good characterization, engaging plot, and sheer awesomeness aside, Vengeance Road is memorable in many ways. I felt like I'd been transported to the Arizona Territory in 1877 while reading Vengeance Road. It was just so visual and vivid, it wasn't hard to imagine being there too. (And the map in Vengeance Road is epic. I adore it.) The Characters. They all have something distinctive about them. The villains are very villainous and the main character has a wicked revenge streak. It's awesome. Finally there a book that fulfills my craving for a Young Adult book about vengeance. Kate's horse Silver plays a big role in the book, as one's horse should in a western. I loved that. Other than Silver, there are other gallant steeds as well as cows and burros. There's also a certain dog that I'm quite fond of. :) Keep an eye out for that when you read Vengeance Road. Shootouts, saloon fights, and searching for gold are only a few things that make Vengeance Road amazing. It also has cowboys, riches and ruin, a trusty steed, a band of evil outlaws, and an independent no-nonsense main character bent on revenge, all coming together to make Vengeance Road a kick-butt book you won't want to miss.

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